

System and Method for Autonomic Wireless Presence Ping**ABSTRACT**

A system and method for autonomic wireless presence ping is presented. An IS administrator wishes to collect
5 capacity requirement information corresponding to a wireless network, such as the number of packets a client sends to and receives from an access point. The IS administrator sends a request to the access point. In turn, the access point sends a control packet to client
10 devices it supports, instructing them to enable an enhanced presence ping bit. Each client enables its enhanced presence ping bit, and collect enhanced status information. Each client device sends the enhanced status information to the access point either when a timer expires, or when the
15 client device receives a ping request from the access point. The access point then forwards the enhanced status information to the IS administrator for analysis.